

## SAP Business Warehouse/Business Intelligence Reporting

# BW/BI Basic Glossary of Terms

Washington State HRMS Business  
Warehouse/Business Intelligence (BW/BI)  
Self-Paced Learning Materials  
General Topics - BW/BI End Users/Power Users

# BW/BI Basic Glossary of Terms

The BW/BI Basic Glossary of Terms section provides an overview of common terminology used throughout the BW/BI Self-Paced Learning Materials.

Term	Description/Comments
<b>Ad hoc Query</b>	Query created by BW/BI Power Users using BEx Tools via SAP GUI.
<b>Attribute</b>	Fields that describe a Master Data entity (characteristic). For example: “Annual Salary” and “Position” are both attributes of the Characteristic “Employee”.
<b>BEx Query Designer</b>	Business Explorer (BEx) Query Designer is a SAP BW/BI tool that allows BW/BI Power Users to design and build ad hoc queries.
<b>Characteristic</b>	Descriptive field that provides context for Key Figures in an InfoProvider.
<b>Display Attribute</b>	Attribute that provides supplemental information about a characteristic for display only.
<b>Drilldown</b>	Navigation step used to obtain additional data on a report.
<b>Fact Table</b>	Table that contains all key figures of an InfoProvider. The key figure portion is created by links to the Characteristics of the InfoProvider.
<b>Filter</b>	Tool that limits query results to specific values. This allows the user to select single values or multiple single values.
<b>Free Characteristic</b>	Optional characteristic used for drilldowns. This characteristic is not displayed in the initial query results (option is provided to allow the user to display the characteristic if needed).
<b>Hierarchy</b>	Master data tables that store parent-child relationships between values of master data entities. For example: the Organizational Unit hierarchy.
<b>InfoProvider</b>	Data object containing multi-dimensional data. InfoProviders contain InfoObjects (data fields) such as Key Figures and Characteristics that are used to build BW/BI queries and reports.

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<b>InfoObject</b>	Fields within BW/BI which are used to create queries. For example: the 'Position' field in HRMS is mapped to a 'Position' field in BW/BI called an InfoObject.
<b>Key Figure</b>	Numeric fields used for analysis in BW/BI reports. For example: number of employees, length of service and annual salary are "key figures".
<b>Master Data</b>	Data used in queries and reports to add more detail to Characteristics. Master Data does not change frequently. For example: Employee Name, Date of Birth and Personnel Number are "master data".
<b>MultiProvider</b>	Combines data from two or more InfoProviders and makes it available for reporting purposes. A MultiProvider does not contain data, but is a view of the InfoProviders on which it is based.
<b>Navigational Attribute</b>	Provides supplemental information about a characteristic and enables filtering and sorting of data from the report results.
<b>OLAP</b>	On-line Analytical Processing. Provides the ability to perform analysis on data stored in a database and analyze different dimensions of multidimensional data.
<b>Query</b>	A collection of data (e.g. key figures and/or characteristics). Some reports contain more than one query.
<b>Report</b>	Pre-defined query developed for use across agency security groups. All BW/BI Custom Reports will be accessible through the HRMS Portal.
<b>Role</b>	A collection of activities a user is able to perform. The ability to access BW/BI reports, specific functions and data within the BW/BI environment is controlled by Roles assigned to the user.
<b>Variable</b>	A query parameter used to limit data results in a query or report (selection criteria). For example: some reports require the user to input a variable value for a timeframe such as Month/Year.